

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on August 12, 2005, **TERRY L. SAMUELS**, age 38, of East St. Louis, Illinois, pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). The violation occurred on October 13, 2004, when **SAMUELS**, his two brothers, and a cousin abducted and beat another cousin in an incident that began in Cahokia, Illinois, and ended in Belleville, Illinois. During the incident, **SAMUELS** possessed a gun which he used to strike the victim several times.

The offense carries with it a maximum penalty of not more than ten (10) years' imprisonment, or a \$250,000 fine, or both, and at least two (2) years', but not more than three (3) years', supervised release. Sentencing is scheduled for November 17, 2005, in East St. Louis, Illinois.

The investigation was conducted by the Belleville Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, in cooperation with the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office, as part of those agencies' participation in Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide initiative intended to combat gun and drug crimes. The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Angela Scott and Andrew Simonson.